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*Robert Sibley
Deputy Director
Planning and Land Use*

TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Government Administration and Elections Committee
State of Connecticut

March 17, 2014

Chairmen Musto and Jutila, Ranking Members Hwang and McLachlan, and committee members.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony in favor of Section 6 of House Bill 5550, An Act Concerning the Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land. My name is Rob Sibley. I am the Deputy Director of Planning and Land Use for the Town of Newtown.

I strongly support the conveyance of this parcel of 34.44 acres to the Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation and encourage the Committee to act favorably. The Hubbard Foundation will use this land as a sanctuary for animals and for nature preservation purposes, initiatives we find consistent with our goals for the property and generally related to current uses in adjacent parcels. The use of this land is consistent with the updated 2014 Town of Newtown, Plan of Conservation and Development.

As the responsible town agent for the conservation and planning of the town's natural resources, I endorse this sanctuaries embodiment of learning, reflection, preservation and enjoyment of the natural world through its work of a community sanctuary. In working with the Hubbard family to identify a place in the town which held the spirit of their foundation's work and Catherine's love of nature, this parcel was singularly suitable.

Again, I respectfully ask that the Committee act favorably on Section 6 of House Bill 5550. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Sibley", written over a horizontal line.

Robert Sibley
Deputy Director of Planning and Land Use